

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01735 271418Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----053371 271420Z /50

O 271344Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1183
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1735

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE
SUBJECT: JONAH'S MISSION

1. JONAH SAYS HE IS ON FACT FINDING MISSION FOR SGY. PLO HAS PROVIDED OVERLAY WHICH SHOWS 190 ARMED PALESTINIANS IN UNIFIL'S AREA OF OPERATIONS. JONAH IS IN PROCESS OF VERIFYING THIS BY VISITS TO NATIONAL CONTINGENTS. ONCE VERIFIED, JONAH MAINTAINS NO INCREASE WILL BE PERMITTED.

2. JONAH ALSO VERIFYING AD HOC INTERIM ARRANGEMENT ON NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES TO PALESTINIANS. IN GENERAL, HE BELIEVES THIS IS WORKING WELL. IN ONE SECTOR, CONTROLS NEEDED TIGHTENING.

3. CHRISTIAN MILITIAS REMAIN ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT. SYG TAKES POSITION UN CANNOT ACCEPT PRESENCE OF ARMED GROUPS NOT SANCTIONED BY GOL. BEIRUT HAS NOT AND CANNOT SANCTION CHRISTIAN MILITIAS. SINCE UN DOES NOT WANT TO USE FORCE, DE FACTO COMPROMISE IS FOR MILITIAS TO REMAIN IN THEIR VILLAGES (STILL ARMED, OF COURSE).

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4. IF SITUATION REMAINS BASCIIALLY THE SAME, AND JONAH SEEMS TO THINK IT WILL, SYG PRESUMABLY WILL REPORT TO SECURITY COUNCIL AND SEEK FURTHER GUIDANCE. IN HIS VIEW, EXISTING SITUATION WHEREBY PALESTINIANS CONTAINED BY UN AND MILITIAS ALLOWED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IN BORDER AREA, WILL EVENTUALLY PROVOKE INCREASED PALESTINIAN INFILTRA-

TION.

5. JONAH STATED SYG CONTINUING TO PRESS FOR DISPATCH OF LAF UNITS TO THE SOUTH. HE WAS AWARE OF, AND NOT HAPPY WITH, SIILASVUO'S REPORTED ADVICE GOL SHOULD PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY IN THIS AREA.

6. COMMENT: ABOVE WAS GLEANED FROM JONAH DURING BREAKFAST MEETING JUNE 27. JONAH'S REPORT IGNORED PROBLEM OF MANY HUNDREDS OF UNARMED PALESTINIAN INFILTRATORS WHICH ARE RELIABLY REPORTED TO BE IN THE AREA AND WHICH HE MAINTAINS UN DOES NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO EXCLUDE. HE CHARACTERIZES PLO COOPERATION AS EXCELLENT. JOHAN SHOWED GREAT SENSITIVITY TO PRESS STORIS ALLEGING SIGNIFICANT PLO INFILTRATION AND SECRET UN-PLO UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING RESUPPLY. END COMMENT.

7. UN SOURCE HAS JUST INFOMED US THAT JONAH HELD ONE-HOUR SESSION WITH ISRAELI MFA OFFICIAL RON MORNING JUNE 27. WE HAVE NO READ-OUT ON THIS DISCUSSION AS YET. JONAH IS NOW ON HIS WAY TO NAQOURA, VISITS TO ADDITIONAL CONTINGENTS, AND THEN ON TO BEIRUT AFTERNOON JUNE 27. WE UNDERSTAND HE WILL TRY TO SEE AMBASSADOR PAERKER, ARAFAT AND BOUTROS. NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PALESTINIANS, TRAVEL REPORTS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JERUSA01735
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780266-0200
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780617/aaaaaohv.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8025667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2197451
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JONAH'S MISSION
TAGS: PBOR, PORO, MARR, IS, LE, UNSC, UNIFIL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8025667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014